

2013 **FIRST®** LEGO® LEAGUE iSPACE DISTRICT

FAMILY INFORMATION PACKET

WELCOME TO THE **FIRST®** LEGO® LEAGUE iSPACE DISTRICT FLL TOURNAMENT!

Welcome and Congratulations to you and your child's FLL team! We are thrilled to be able to host this qualifying tournament, and we thank you for being a part of this experience!

In order to give you and your child the best possible experience, this document will explain some of our policies and give you some information that will make your experience and your child's team experience ones you will remember for a long time.

TEAM ONLY AREAS:

As you know, **FIRST®** LEGO® League is a child and team driven program. Through FLL, teams are empowered to decide on their own direction, their own solutions, and their own problem-solving strategies. Children learn to become independent thinkers with advanced teamwork and critical thinking skills.

Coaches are those indispensable guides and role models, but the kids are the ones who do the work. Because of this fundamental philosophy, we do have "Team Only" areas, where teams can focus on the competition with minimum adult interaction and influence. In this way, the team takes responsibility for their problem-solving and their successes. Our judges are able to see and visit with the kids, to hear and see what they have learned, and to communicate with them authentically. For this reason, our Pit and Judging Areas are closed to the public. Up to two adult coaches/mentors *plus their senior partner* may be with the team in these "Team Only" areas. Parents are welcome in the competition area as spectators, but will not be allowed at the tables. We thank you in advance for your understanding and respect for this policy.

JUDGING SESSIONS:

Your child's team will be judged in three areas (Senior Solutions Project, Robot and Core Values), during a pre-assigned judging time on the morning of the tournament. You can find the preliminary tournament schedule after Christmas for each judging sessions, on the iSPACE Tournament page of the Ohio FLL website at: http://edoutreach.wpafb.af.mil/Robotics/media/2012/flyers/ispace_district.html and the **final schedule** will be given to the teams at check in and posted at the event.

Parents and family members may not travel with the team into the Judging rooms or robot competition floor. But there are many activities and demonstrations open to spectators in the **auditorium**, the **cafeteria**, and the **Jr.FLL Areas**.

AUDITORIUM ACTIVITIES:

- **Jr.FLL Award Ceremonies**

The iSPACE Jr.FLL Expo is being held in conjunction with the iSPACE District FLL tournament. There will be one Jr.FLL Award ceremonies for the Jr.FLL teams taking place on the competition floor in the morning and possibly another Jr.FLL Awards Ceremony in the afternoon between rounds 2 and 3. The overall schedule will be finalized when the number of Jr.FLL teams is determined. Please cheer for these young teams!

- **Opening and Closing FLL Ceremonies** – (This is a perfect time to capture the team with your cameras!)

- **FLL Robot Rounds**

During the four robot rounds, the robot action on the center set of tables is projected onto the large screen. There will be one Practice Round where the scores DO NOT count and 3 official rounds where the scores count (excluding the House Runs). Teams will be featured on the center tables (tables C and D) during one of their three official rounds. There will be seating in the competition area, and the scores will be displayed prominently on large screens. Your team will be announced by play-by-play announcers and possibly interviewed.

CAFETERIA ACTIVITIES:

- **Meals and Snacks:**

Food concessions will be available in the cafeteria serving coffee and hot chocolate in the morning, and pizza, hamburgers, and hotdogs for lunch. The teams are free to eat whenever they have a break in their schedule. There is time in the schedule for the teams to have lunch right after their practice round. You should contact your coach ahead of time if you would like to make arrangements to eat with your child's team.

- **Practice Tables**

Adjacent to the eating area are the robot practice tables. This is a great opportunity to see the teams run their robots up close. You may capture some action shots with your cameras with the flash and auto focusing turned off.

PIT AREA:

This area is open only to team members, senior partners and two coach/mentors. It is located in the cafeteria annex. There is a volunteer Pit Guard who will control entrance to the Pit.

TEAM COMMUNICATIONS:

We recommend that you make arrangements with your team in advance for down times when you can all meet. For instance, you might all want to meet for lunch during the lunch break in the team's schedule. You also might want to spend some time watching parts of the robot competition together. If you prepare for these times in advance, it will make the day less confusing.

GREAT HALL and LOBBY ACTIVITIES:

- **Jr.FLL Expo Open Houses**

A Jr.FLL Expo is being held in conjunction with the iSPACE District FLL tournament. Spectators may view the Jr.FLL posters and projects in the Jr.FLL display area during the Jr.FLL Open Houses.

- **Information Table**

An iSPACE board member will be on hand to answer any questions about **iSPACE**, the non-profit organization who provides many opportunities for students and families in addition to FIRST robotics tournaments.

- **Official Programs**

Event programs can be purchased which contain color pictures of all the FLL and Jr.FLL teams participating in the day's events, explanations of missions, schedule of the day, and other tournament related information.

- **T-Shirt Purchases**

The Official Souvenir Tournament "Senior Solutions" T-shirt will be available for purchase at the information table at a cost of \$15. The names of all FLL and Jr.FLL teams participating in the iSPACE district event will be printed on the back of the shirts! There will be a limited number of shirts available. If you do not pre-order a shirt on the team order form through your coach, and want to be sure to get one, stop by early! Checks can be made payable to iSPACE, Inc. iSPACE will also accept VISA or MasterCard.

BASIC SCHEDULE FOR THE DAY for FLL ACTIVITIES:

7:45 AM or 8:10 AM: TEAM CHECK-IN in the Cafeteria

Your child will be expected to be on-site at 7:45 AM or 8:10 AM depending on their team tournament number. Your coach will instruct you when the team should arrive depending on your team's tournament number. All members need to be present when the team checks in.

8:30 AM – 11:15 AM: TEAM PRESENTATIONS (closed to the public)

The early group will have their first presentation 45 minutes after their check-in times at 8:30 AM, their second presentation at 9:20AM, and their third presentation at 10:30 AM. The later group of teams will have their first presentation at 8:55, their second presentation at 9:45 and their third presentation 10:55. If these times need to be adjusted, the schedule each team will receive at check-in will list their official times. Almost every year, last minute changes are made to the schedule due to unforeseen circumstances.

11:30 AM: FLL OPENING CEREMONY

Join us for the Opening Ceremony at this time in the auditorium. We will start with a parade of teams– be there to cheer your team as they enter the competition area!

12:00 PM: Practice ROBOT PERFORMANCE ROUND

12:10 – 1:10 PM: Scheduled Breaks for Team Lunches

1:00 PM – 3:30 PM: Official ROBOT PERFORMANCE ROUNDS

4:00 PM ish: CLOSING CEREMONY

Teams will be recognized for their achievements – every team member will receive a medal! Trophies, the iSPACE District Ambassador Semi-Finalists, and volunteer and coach awards will be distributed during this celebration. Please refer to the Program Book for a complete list of the awards that will be presented.

OHIO STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT INVITATIONS

The FLL iSPACE District Tournament will advance five teams to the Ohio State Championship Tournament on February 9 & 10, 2013. Champion's Award criteria will be used to advance the top five teams and the ambassador semi-finalists will advance, even if the ambassador semi-finalists teams are not in the top six teams at this event.

A FINAL NOTE ABOUT GRACIOUS BEHAVIOR

In FLL we embrace the value of "Gracious Professionalism™." Please be gracious observers of this FLL experience. Poor behavior on the part of family members can impact a team negatively with the judges.

Thank you for allowing your child to participate in this powerful, empowering program. You have to be incredibly proud of your child's growth over the course of this tournament season! These teams inspire us as well!

HAVE FUN!

